

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 SS-20 ISO-00 SR-02 SSO-00 ORM-03 VO-03

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 INR-10 INRE-00 NSC-10

NSCE-00 DODE-00 SY-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 EURE-00 PRS-01

SCA-01 /102 W

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6371

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 0632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF: UR, GW

SUBJECT: VITALIY L'VOVICH LEYDERMAN

FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, OPERATIONS CENTER

REF: STATE A-270, JAN 11, 1972

A. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED ON A SOVIET
CITIZEN WHO IS APPLYING FOR PAROLE UNDER SECTION 212
(D) (5).

1. VITALITY L'VOVICH LEYDERMAN, FORMERLY SOVIET CITIZEN.
2. BORN ON 18 AUGUST 1940 IN VILLAGE ALYGDZHAR,
TAFALRSKIY RAYON, IRKUTSKAYA OBLAST, USSR. MEDICAL DOCTOR.
3. HE HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A VALID FREMDENPASS, ISSUED ON 16
NOVEMBER 1973 BY THE OFFICE OF THE LANDRAT IN BAD HOMBURG
WITH A GERMAN RESIDENCE PERMIT VALID UNTIL 1 JUNE 1974.
4. TURKISH AND GERMAN OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF
SUBJECTS REQUEST FOR ASYLUM.

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5. SUBJECT WAS A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND CHIEF OF MEDICAL SERVICE (RANK OF CAPTAIN) WITH THE 125TH BORDER GUARD DETACHMENT IN ARTASHAT IN THE ARMENIAN SSR UNTIL HIS DEFECTION ON 15/16 AUGUST 1973. SUBJECT, UNDER THE PRETENSE OF RETRIEVING HIS FISHING GEAR, WADED THROUGH THE ARAKS RIVER INTO TURKEY AT MIDNIGHT WHERE HE REPORTED TO TURKISH OFFICIALS. IN TURKEY SUBJECT WAS KEPT IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY BY TURKISH OFFICIALS UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO US CUSTODY.

6. PRESENTLY SUBJECT IS LOCATED IN FRANKFURT/GERMANY AND REGISTERED WITH THE POLICE IN OBERURSELL/TAUNUS, WEST GERMANY.

7. SUBJECTS STATED REASON FOR DEFECTION WAS HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE LACK OF FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO WERE UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE OF ONE TYPE OR ANOTHER; ONCE ASSIGNED TO A BORDER GUARD DETACHMENT THERE WAS NOT CHANCE OF EVER BEING RELIEVED FROM THIS DUTY UNTIL RETIREMENT AND SUBJECT HAD REACHED THE POINT WHERE HE NO LONGER COULD TOLERATE THE LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS THERE.

8. SUBJECT HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD AND WAS NEVER ENGAGED IN ANY UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.

9. COMING FROM PEASANTS BACKGROUND, SUBJECT WAS AN APOLITICAL PERSON AND A PASSIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE WAS DRAFTED INTO THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS AND COMMISSIONED AFTER A MANDATORY ROTC-TYPE TRAINING IN MEDICAL SCHOOL IN 1964. BECAUSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES, HE QUICKLY ROSE TO THE HEAD OF DETACHMENTS MEDICAL SERVICE WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF 1,300 MEN. ALTHOUGH MOST OF HIS FELLOW OFFICERS ON HIS LEVEL WERE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS, HE RESISTED PRESSURE TO JOIN BY HIS SUPERIORS AND POLITICAL OFFICERS AS LONG AS HE COULD. HE FINALLY SUCCUMBED TO POLITICAL PRESSURE AND JOINED THE CPSU IN 1968. HE HAD NEVER ATTENDED PARTY MEETINGS, CLAIMING PREOCCUPATION WITH HIS MEDICAL DUTIES. HE WAS A RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER UNTIL LATE 1972 WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ARMENIA AND WAS APPOINTED "(ELECTED" IN SOVIET TERMINOLOGY/ SECRETARY OF A SIX-MAN CELL (THE REASON BEING THAT HE WAS THE ONLY OFFICER AMONG THE SIX WITH A "CLEAN" DISCIPLINARY RECORD--THE OTHERS HAD BEEN

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REPRIMANDED AND FINED FOR DRINKING, FIGHTS, NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY, ETC.).

SUBJECTS DISSATISFACTION WITH PARTY RULE AND SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION IN HIS HOMELAND GREW AS TIME PROGRESSED, AND HAVING NO WAY OF CHANGING THE EXISTING SITUATION, HE PROTESTED BY ESCAPING TO THE WEST.

B. AFTER SUBJECTS DEFECTION IN TURKEY, THE SOVIET OFFICIALS

DEMANDED A CONFRONTATION WITH SUBJECT. SUBJECT REFUSED TO SEE THE SOVIETS AND REFUSED TO RETURN TO THE USSR. BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF DISCOVERY, THE TURKISH OFFICIALS PUT SUBJECT UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY UNTIL HE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE AMERICANS IN FRANKFURT, WHERE HE IS COOPERATING WITH THE US GOVERNMENT AND IS AWAITING IMMIGRATION TO THE US.

C. THE TOLSTOY FOUNDATIONS IS SPONSORING SUBJECT AND WILL, ON A LOAN BASIS, ADVANCE THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR SUBJECTS TRIP AND FIRST WEEKS AFTER RESETTLEMENT, IF NEEDED. HOWEVER, SUBJECT CAN PAY FOR HIS OWN TRAVEL EXPENSES.

D. SUBJECT WAS INTERVIEWED BY INS FRANKFURT ON 16 JANUARY AND WAS FOUND NOT QUALIFIED FOR CO
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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